



Department of Justice

Consumer Affairs Victoria
Consumer Policy and Programs

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5 August 2008

Mr Tony O'Shea
Chairman
Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd
71 Franciscan Avenue
FRANKSTON VIC 3199

Our ref: CD/08/139074

Dear Mr O'Shea

I refer to your meeting on Wednesday 23 July 2008 with our Acting Director Dr Claire Noone and Mr John Unkovich of this Branch.

I can confirm that Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) will be writing to all registered co-operatives to provide them with information on the recent Co-operatives Amendment Bill. Letters to co-operatives will be despatched from our Registration, Licensing and Community Engagement Branch.

In relation to your request for consolidated information from the Register of Co-operatives, I advise that it is feasible for CAV to provide the Federation with an Excel sheet listing of all registered co-operatives and their registered office address without infringing information privacy principles. There may be a charge for this service and I suggest that you contact Mr Matt Hammond or Ms Suza Josevska in our Registration Branch on 8684 6202 or 8684 6212 to make the appropriate arrangements.

In relation to national developments in co-operatives law, I advise that the National Co-operatives Working Party (comprising government officers from State and Territory regulators dealing with co-operatives and, ultimately, reporting to the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs) is developing a draft national co-operatives code and draft national uniform co-operative laws agreement. It is intended that once a draft of the proposed code has been settled by the working party, it will be released for a period of public consultation. This may occur as early as late 2008, however, we will keep the Federation informed of developments.

As discussed at the meeting on 23 July, we confirm that the Office for the Community Sector (OCS) has recently been established within the Department for Planning and Community Development. The OCS is one of a range of commitments outlined in *The Victorian Government Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations* launched by the Premier on 9 April 2008.

While CAV will continue to have formal regulatory responsibility for associations and co-operatives, the OCS is to lead the coordination and implementation of policy priorities affecting the community sector across the whole of the Victorian Government. The *Action Plan* is available for download from the Department for Planning and Community Development website at www.dvc.vic.gov.au.

We have contacted the OCS and have notified them of the Federation's interest, as a peak body, in proposed sector consultative forums to be established by the Office. We have also provided them with your contact details.

Finally, I confirm the offer by Dr Noone to hold regular meetings between CAV and the Federation, perhaps on a quarterly basis, and invite you to contact our Mr Unkovich to discuss potential dates. He may be contacted on (03) 8684 6301 or via e-mail at john.unkovich@justice.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Clyde', written over the printed name.

Ian Clyde
A/General Manager